

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy
Community



US Army Corps
of Engineers

February 2008

Volume 11, Issue 2

A Note from the Leader of the Planning Community of Practice

Greetings! In my remarks this month I would like to touch on something that I hope will stimulate thinking, discussion and reflection on the subject of "What is the role of a planner within the Corps of Engineers in relationship building?"

As has been our Nation's practice, in late January, the President delivered his State of the Union message, followed a week later by his presentation to Congress of his budget request for Fiscal Year 2009 which begins on October 1, 2008. Both of these activities have great significance and importance to the Nation.

I would like to offer some of my thoughts on what is the role of a planner within the Corps in the context of relationship building.

To begin, planners are the key to building relationships and partnerships between the Corps and local project sponsors and the broad range of stakeholders. A key ingredient to building successful relationships and partnerships is a thorough understanding of the needs of the stakeholder and the opportunities available through existing authorities, policies and guidance. Thus planners need to be thoroughly versed and familiar with existing authorities, policies and guidance. Also planners need to have a high level of situational awareness of the events that are occurring in the local area.

What are you doing to understand the needs of your stakeholders?

What are you doing to build successful relationships with your study or project stakeholders?

What are you doing to gain the expertise and knowledge of authorities, policy and guidance needed to effectively work with your stakeholders to develop sound water resources solutions?

In May 2008, the Planning Community of Practice will be holding its 2008 [Planning Community of Practice Conference](#) entitled, "Planners Leading Strategically: Developing Sound Water Resources Solutions."

The conference will focus on planning issues and innovations related to the Corps strategic initiatives including the Civil Works Strategic Plan, the Actions for Change, the Campaign Goals, and the Environment Operating Principles.

The conference program will include a mix of plenary and concurrent sessions, with the plenary sessions focusing on policy or programmatic issues, while the concurrent sessions will focus of issues involved with planning (plan

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formulation, economic analysis, environmental valuation, planning in a collaborative environment, partnering with stakeholders, etc.). I urge you propose a presentation for the conference and to attend to enhance building your own relationships.

Essayons!

Theodore A. “Tab” Brown, P.E., MBA
Acting Chief, Planning and Policy & MVD RIT Leader
Directorate of Civil Works, HQUSACE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

The theme of this month’s issue of *Planning Ahead* is “relationship building.” As Mr. **Tab Brown**, Leader of the Planning Community of Practice identifies in his opening remarks to this month’s issue of the newsletter, planners within the Corps are key to building relationships and partnerships between the Corps and local project sponsors and a broad range of stakeholders. A key to building successful relationships is an understanding of the needs of the stakeholder and the opportunities available through existing authorities, policies, and guidance.

In this issue of *Planning Ahead*, Mr. **Jay MacKay** of the New England District writes about the successful culmination of a two year effort between the Corps and the National Marine Fisheries Service to develop the first Programmatic Essential Fish Habitat Assessment (PEFHA) in the District. Development of the PEFHA will result in the saving of both time and money versus having the Corps and the NMFS perform individual assessments of projects over the next ten years.

Also in this issue of *Planning Ahead*, Dr. **JoAnne Castagna** of the New York District writes about the efforts of the Corps in working with the Louisiana State University and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to increase the capacity of the university to prepare for and respond to natural disasters such as hurricane through the development of a campus wide Geographic Information System (GIS).

Mr. **Stuart Davis** of the Institute for Water Resources reports that the beta version of IWR-GeoFit for Arc 9.2 will soon be available for download from the IWR website. IWR-GeoFIT allows districts to import GIS data for floodplain inventories and to use the software in the field to add onsite observations for flood risk management studies.

Ms. **Candida Bronson** of the Jacksonville District and a member of the Planning Associates Class of 2008 reports on the activities of the Planning Associates, including their reading of a number of books on management and leadership theory and development, effective team building, and decision making.

Also included in this month’s issue of the newsletter are announcements of PROSPECT training courses, employment opportunities within the Corps, upcoming conferences and recently released reports.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of *Planning Ahead*.

Ken Lichtman, Editor
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Planning Community of Practice Conference 2008:

“PLANNERS LEADING STRATEGICALLY: Developing Sound Water Resources Solutions”

by Bruce Carlson, Headquarters

SENIOR LEADERS CONFIRMED AS KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Conference participants will have an opportunity to “Meet the Chief” at the opening icebreaker of the Planning CoP Conference in San Antonio, May 19-22 2008, as well as to hear from our top leadership discussing key issues of interest to the Corps and the Planning CoP. Confirmed speakers include:

- Mr. John P. Woodley, Jr. - Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works)
- Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, Commander and Chief of Engineers
- Steven L. Stockton, Deputy Director of Civil Works, USACE

A preliminary agenda outlining the structure of the conference (“Conference at a Glance”) has been posted to the conference web site:

<http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/2007pres/Conference%20web%20site.htm>

LAST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – DEADLINE 8 FEBRUARY, 2008:

This is your last chance to submit abstracts for the 2008 Conference. Please refer to the full call for papers in the December 2007 issue of Planning Ahead and the Conference website <http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecw-cp/2007pres/Conference%20web%20site.htm> for submittal instructions, as well as sample abstracts and biographies. Be sure to discuss your ideas with your supervisor, and be sure you will be able to attend the conference prior to making a submittal.

Abstract submittals should be directed to the Conference Chair, Bruce Carlson, bruce.d.carlson@usace.army.mil. Submittals will be accepted by email only, and should include the words “Planning Conference Proposal” in the message header.

REGISTRATION TO OPEN MID-FEBRUARY

Registration for the conference and for hotel reservations will open Mid-February. Since this will fall between the Planning Ahead issue cycles, we will send out a special announcement to the Planning Ahead subscription list announcing that registration is open.

Watch future issues of Planning Ahead and the website for further updates on Conference news, including further program information.

Programmatic Essential Fish Habitat Assessment Finalized for Nine Federal Navigation Projects in New England By Jay Mackay, New England District

In February of 2007 the New England District (NAE) of the USACE in conjunction with the Northeast Regional Field Office of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) finalized the first Programmatic Essential Fish Habitat Assessment (PEFHA) in the District. The PEFHA is written to include nine frequently maintained Federal Navigation Projects (FNPs) in New England (i.e. dredged at least once every 10 years) that fulfill a given set of criteria and result in minimal environmental impacts. These criteria include projects that consist of up to 100,000 cubic yards of coarse grained (sandy) material to be disposed either directly on a beach or at a near-shore disposal site for the purpose of beach nourishment. These conditions allow for projects to be grouped under a single long-term PEFH consultation with impacts assessed both individually and cumulatively over a ten year period. Projects meeting these criteria are designated as Tier 1 projects.

The final document was developed over a two year period by the Environmental Resources Section of NAE and was

the result of significant collaboration between the Corps (NAE) and NMFS seeking to simultaneously address environmental, logistical and budgetary considerations. Specific challenges included identifying the local Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) issues for each project, the development of a document format that captured all the general and specific information for each project and coming to agreement on the Best Management Practices at each project to minimize environmental impacts.

Long-term EFH approvals for the nine FNPs result in the savings of both the time and money that it would take the Corps and NMFS to perform individual assessments for each of these nine projects over the next ten years. As a result, thinly stretched staff can now focus their energies on more significant priorities. It is also hoped that this document can serve as a template for future programmatic reviews as may be appropriate such as endangered species or for regional disposal sites.

Questions concerning the PEFHA or the process utilized by the Environmental Resources Section of the District to develop the PEFHA may be directed to Mr. Jay Mackay, Chief, Environmental Resources Section, New England District at 978-318-8142 or Dr. Valerie Cappola, Marine Ecologist, at 978-318-8067.

IWR-GeoFIT for ArcGIS 9.2 Available Soon on the IWR Website

By Stuart Davis, Institute for Water Resources

The beta version of IWR-GeoFIT for ArcGIS 9.2 will be available for download off the IWR website by February 8th at: <http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil/inside/products/proj/softGeoFIT.cfm>. This version will ensure software compatibility for the many Corps districts that are moving to ArcGIS 9.2 for their GIS applications. The 9.1 version will continue to be online, and software developer Greg Gagliano of HDR's New Orleans office will continue to be available for technical support for both versions of the application. Greg can be reached at Gregory.Gagliano@hdrinc.com or 504-837-6681. Greg is also available to conduct additional workshops like the one presented in Chicago on November 29th.

IWR-GeoFIT allows districts to import GIS data for floodplain inventories and to use the software in the field to add onsite observations for flood risk management studies.

The software saves time and money by organizing data, facilitating sampling, facilitating batch computations of structure values, and exporting results to HEC-FDA for computation of expected annual damages.



Attendees at IWR-GeoFIT workshop, Chicago, IL, November 29, 2007

Katrina Lessons Create New Course For University

By JoAnne Castagna, New York District

As students began the Fall semester 2007 at Louisiana State University, the school took a new course in how to keep their college community safe from future hurricanes, like Katrina and Rita, that normally occur during the summer and fall, with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It has been almost two and one half years since Hurricane Katrina, the sixth-strongest Atlantic hurricane ever recorded and the third-strongest hurricane on record that made landfall in the United States.

Since August 2005, the Army Corps has deployed thousands of personnel to the Gulf coast to assist the Federal Emergency Management Agency and other federal, state, and volunteer organizations to help get the beaten region back on its feet.

One of the ways the Corps is doing this is through Geographic Information System (GIS) support.

Stephen Mcdevitt, GIS expert with the Army Corps' New York District was one of four national action officers responsible for deploying and managing GIS teams throughout the Gulf region.

"GIS is a computer-based information system and tool for analysis of spatial data," said Mcdevitt. "The GIS takes data from various sources, such as aerial photographs, drawings, and electronic geographic data and combines these layers of information in various ways as overlays to perform spatial analysis and produce an electronic map which depicts the results of that analysis."

One of the ways the Corps is using GIS is to make Louisiana State University a disaster resistant school. Even though the school wasn't damaged from Katrina, the campus is still vulnerable to future hurricanes.

The university is located in the southern part of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, bordered on the west by the Mississippi River. Louisiana is a coastal state that faces possible threats from hurricanes and tropical storms year round and especially during hurricane season.

Since 2006, the Corps has been working with the university to map the entire school into a GIS. This is being done so that if a hurricane occurs, the faculty has maps electronically available to help guide them through

the situation and save the lives of thousands of students and staff.

"The main function of the GIS based maps is to save lives by reducing the amount of time it takes for emergency personnel to assess a given situation," said Keith Koralewski, Hydraulic Engineer, USACE, Buffalo District, who deployed three times to Louisiana to provide GIS services for various operations.

LSU wanted to get their entire 2,000 acre campus into GIS including all of their buildings, parking lots, sidewalks, and roads," said Koralewski.

The university working with the Corps linked building information into the school's safety database including building names, number of rooms, classroom numbers, room layout, square footage, and professor's names and phone numbers. "So if an emergency occurs in a particular building they could pull up the GIS map, click on the building and see where the emergency exits and fire extinguishers are and be able to contact professors or other personnel who are normally in that area of the campus. If a certain area of the building is damaged this info can provide them with an idea of who may be trapped," said Koralewski.

"If there is a fire in a lab we will be able to click into that room in the lab and see what chemicals we have presently in the lab, which is info we can provide to the fire department," said Joe Thompson, Police Officer, LSU Police Department.

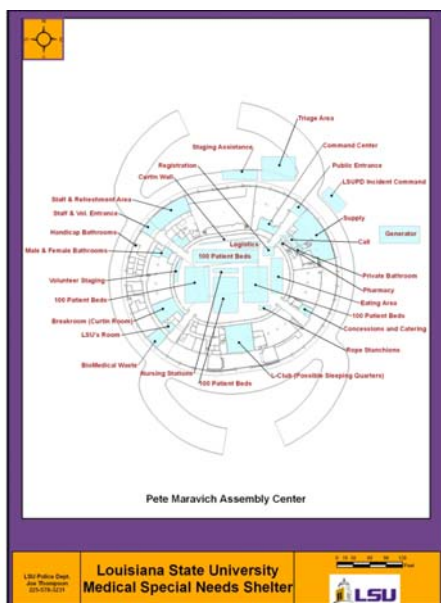
"Having an active campus so when you click on a building you get the data behind it - this is what GIS is all about," said Thompson who has GIS experience and works with the school's IT, IS and Emergency Response Systems.

Thompson mentioned that he worked with the Corps to map out one of the key buildings on the campus, the Pete Maravich Assembly Center, a large indoor basketball arena. The arena served as a medical shelter in the aftermath of Katrina for an influx of New Orleans residents with medical special needs. Now the school wants to better prepare it to serve as a medical special needs center in the event another hurricane hits.

"I worked with the Corps to digitize drawings of the arena into GIS to create electronic maps of the arena," said Thompson.

"I also sat down with LSU's Department of Hospitals and Social Services to determine where beds and medicine

Thompson continued, “If a hurricane comes and that shelter is activated to start evacuating people with medical special needs we basically have maps printed up that so that the employees that are working there know where and how to set up the beds, where to store the medicine, and where tables are set up, so that we have a smooth operation that goes by quicker when we have that emergency response.”



GIS's electronic based maps will enable the school to assess the situation more quickly as opposed to pulling out printed maps that may be obsolete as roads, parking lots and buildings may change over time," said Koralewski. "With GIS maps one can update a map with new information immediately as opposed to paper maps which may only be updated every couple of years or so."



“The Corps is providing planning guidance to LSU if a disaster hits and will reduce vulnerability. This GIS system will also serve as a basis for a 911 system for the LSU Campus, since it is a city within a city.” Koralewski said.

“GIS is also very useful for situations where many different agencies may converge on a scene. The agency personnel may not know the area, so GIS maps provide a way for them to get familiar with the layout of the buildings and the campus” Korlewski continued.

Rusti Liner, Geospatial Unit Supervisor with FEMA provided the Corps, LSU and other agencies resources and overall project management. “Prior to the Corps’ development of GIS maps for the school, campus addresses were not available and useful street data had not yet been developed. Simple package deliveries to the campus were major obstacles for staff and faculty.” She continued, “Due to the university’s large population and its vulnerability to nearby rail and rivers, these data layers are vital to first responders.”

Mcdevitt said, “The Corps’ national GIS team will continue to support FEMA and LSU in Baton Rouge as long as they need us.”

Dr. JoAnne Castagna is a technical writer-editor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District. She can be reached at joanne.castagna@usace.army.mil

2008 Planning Associates Continue Training Over the Holidays

by Candida Bronson, Jacksonville District

The Planning Associates (PA's) Class of 2008 enjoyed a break from travel to allow some well-deserved family time over the holidays. However, PA's are also focused on the program when we are in our home offices. Through conference calls and independent assignments, the training continued.

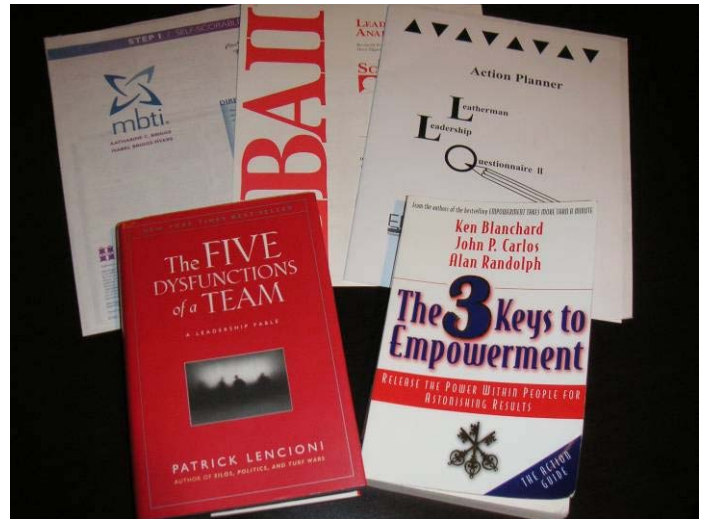
Have you ever been in a group where everyone was talking about the latest management philosophy and you didn't even understand the jargon? Keeping abreast of new information is part of being a leader. The Planning Associates program includes independent reading assignments of several books to improve our awareness of management trends and encourage continued learning throughout our careers.

Since early October we have read and discussed four books: [*The Five Dysfunctions of a Team*](#) by Patrick M. Lencioni; [*The 3 Keys to Empowerment*](#) by Ken Blanchard, John C. Carlos and Alan Randolph; [*Tipping Point*](#) by Malcolm Gladwell, and [*Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*](#) by Malcolm Gladwell.

The Five Dysfunctions and *The 3 Keys* focus on teams, management, leadership, empowerment, and communication. By learning about some of the common obstacles faced by teams, we can learn how to avoid or overcome those obstacles. Once the team is working well together, we can refine our actions to make the most efficient teams and expand that efficiency to affect the whole organization. *The 3 Keys* also addresses change and common reactions to change. By creating an environment of empowerment, where team members have some say in the change or how the change is implemented, greater success with less conflict is achieved.

The Tipping Point and *Blink*, both by Malcolm Gladwell, focused on the individual by introducing psychology and group dynamics. Through the readings we learned some of the factors influencing the transmission of new ideas and products and how influential they were. In *Blink* we learned about decision making and risk factors with making decisions. With each book, the PA's wrote a review on our interpretation, value and application of the ideas. We discussed the books in a group forum to learn from differing viewpoints or different ideas on application. Application and appropriateness were probably the most controversial topics, attempting to

blend some of these private sector or business oriented ideas into the Corps culture. With all the different opinions on these books, I think this was a positive learning experience for the PA's that stressed the importance of self improvement and incorporation of that ideal into our learning organization.



Independent reading assignments are a part of the Planning Associates program

While you may not have noticed the PA in your District participating in book discussions, perhaps you did have an opportunity to attend a *Home Office Back Brief* (HOBB). The purpose of the HOBB is to provide feedback to the home office about the significant learnings that the class gained from the course as well as information of specific interest to the home District. It is also an opportunity for the PA's to hone our presentation skills and engage the Districts in our training for the year. Throughout the year, the PA's of 2008 will be hosting HOBB's and I encourage you to attend. The PA's will be interacting with some of the Corps' top leaders and instructors and will have the opportunity to ask lots of questions. If you have an issue related to one of the upcoming PA training courses, contact a PA to pass your ideas along.

The Planning Associates Class of 2008 consists of: Adam Fox (Detroit District), Bret Walters (Alaska District), Candida Bronson (Jacksonville District), Gregg Williams (Memphis District), Jeff Strahan (Norfolk District), John Peukert (Vicksburg District – moving to St Louis District), Mike Dietl (Sacramento District), Miki Fujitsubo (Sacramento District), Miriam Gilmer (Seattle District), Ron Pinzon (New York District), Tara Anderson (Wilmington District), and Tony Friona (Buffalo District).

Our next trip begins on January 21st with an optional tour of New Orleans for the PA's that have not been there recently. We plan to tour the affected areas to see the Corps structures, construction areas, and future construction areas. The PA's will be traveling to Vicksburg, MS through the end of the week where we will be touring ERDC and meeting with Mississippi Valley Division. This will be a great opportunity to see the labs, with an entire day devoted to the Environmental Laboratory.

The PA's then take off for sunny Miami, FL for Deep Draft Navigation, January 28th through February 1st. The course goal is to enhance the participant's knowledge and capability in Deep Draft Navigation Planning by identifying the Corps' mission in navigation; communicating the planning process and concepts of plan formulation; addressing economic evaluation; describing environmental considerations and inter-agency coordination; explaining engineering design and project cost development; and describing the Corps dredging and operation and maintenance programs.

Candida Bronson is a coastal planner for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District. She can be reached at candida.k.bronson@usace.army.mil.



The 2008 PA's next stop will be Deep Draft Navigation training in Miami, FL.

2008 Planning Associates Itinerary

1. **Orientation, Leadership, Communication, Team Building Skills (Oct–Nov 2007)**
2. **Customized Plan Formulation (December 2007)**
3. Engineer and Research Development Center (ERDC) (January 2008)
4. Deep Draft Navigation (January 2008)
5. Washington DC Experience (February – March)
6. Endangered Species Act, Hydropower, Water Supply, and Recreation (April)
7. Flood Damage Reduction (April)
8. Watersheds/Planning Community of Practice (PCoP) Conference (May)
9. Inland Navigation (June)
10. Ecosystem Restoration (June)
11. Small Boat Harbors, and Intergovernmental Affairs (July)
12. Cultural Resources and Tribal Affairs (July)
13. Hurricane Storm Damage (July)

* Bolded titles indicate completed courses.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

These are but a few of the many available positions advertised on the Army's Civilian Personnel on line website:
<http://cpol.army.mil>

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **WTKC08192566**

Opening Date: January 29, 2008 **Closing Date:** February 08, 2008

Position: YC-2:Supervisory Social Sciences Study Manager (0101), Supervisory Biological Science Study Manager (0401), Supervisory Landscape Architect (0807), Supervisory Civil Engineer (0810), Supervisory Physical Scientist (1301)

Salary: \$65,569 - \$127,006 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Planning Division, Plan Formulation Branch, Water Resources Planning Section C, duty station: Phoenix, AZ. (Includes 14.74% Local Market Supplement)

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

NSPS Position: This position is covered by the National Security Personnel System. For more information on NSPS, please visit the website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

Duties: Responsible for programming, coordinating and reviewing the technical and administrative activities of the section for planning and development of projects for water and associated land resources. Activities of the section include investigation, planning and formulation of flood control and multi-purpose water resource development projects, the analysis of flood plain hazards and the preparation of reconnaissance and feasibility reports. Exercises administrative and technical control over approximately 7 permanent employees. Develops long term work plans using in-service staff and contractors to best accomplish work and long term multi-year work plans for 50-50 cost shared feasibility studies. Negotiate with program officials to determine scope, schedule, and cost of activities. Responsible for development of legislative proposals at request of Congress and on position papers on proposed legislative, administrative and political actions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **WTEV08491423**

Opening Date: January 15, 2008 **Closing Date:** February 14, 2008

Position: YX-2: Architect (0808), General Engineer (Interdisciplinary) (0801), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Mechanical Engineer (0830), Electrical Engineer (0850), Industrial Engineer (0896), Social Scientist (0101), Economist (0110), Forester (0460), Wildlife Biologist (0486), Physical Scientist (1301), Geologist (1350)

Salary: \$68,625 - \$93,677 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Alaska, Programs and Project Management Div, Elmendorf AFB, AK - Currently eligible for 24% Cost of Living Allowance

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 01

Duties: Responsible for the overall management, control, coordination and execution of assigned projects. Implements corporate decisions, guidance, laws, regulations and policy in the development of a project and intermediate products or projects. Negotiates and integrates all district functions, sponsor/customer needs and other agencies commitments in support of assigned project into a comprehensive management plan. Integrates Executive/Congressional schedules and criteria and establishes project scope and criteria, schedules and milestones, budgets, dependencies and responsibilities of the participating parties, assumptions and risks, contingencies and performance measurement criteria. Coordinates the planning, design, cost engineering, construction and environmental considerations for engineering projects. Controls and manages project milestones and budgets from planning through construction and initial operations. Reviews and approves project cost and schedule changes.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **WTKC08981004**

Opening Date: January 30, 2008 **Closing Date:** February 15, 2008

Position: GS-13:Social Science (0101), Project Manager (0401), Project Manager (0801), Physical Scientist (1301), Architect (0808), Landscape Architecture (0807)

Salary: \$85,960 - \$111,753 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer District, Los Angeles, Programs and Project Management Division, Civil Works Branch, Los Angeles, CA

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 3

Duties: Serves as Senior Project Manager reviewing & evaluating the status of projects for attainment of objectives. Projects may include dams, water diversion structures, bridges, flood walls, levees, river control structures, navigation, shore protection & environmental restoration. Plan, programs & oversees cost & schedule execution of the planning, design & construction of Civil Works water resources projects to assure that projects are completed within guidelines & objectives. Reviews & approves funding and manpower estimates to ensure resources to support project objectives. Reviews project criteria, construction progress & contract modifications & approves major changes. Represents the District when dealing with the local, state & municipal authorities for the project & is responsible for furnishing authoritative responses to project questions & issues. Participates with key district personnel in defining project goals & in preparing a project management plan for accomplishment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **NEGA08500200**

Opening Date: January 25, 2008 **Closing Date:** February 07, 2008

Position: GS-13:Water Resource Planner (0101), Economist (0110), Biologist (0401), Project Engineer (0801), Architect (0808), Civil Engineer (0810), Environmental Engineer (0819), Physical Scientist (1301), Oceanographer (1360)

Salary: \$82,446 - \$107,185 Annual

Place of Work: US Army Engineer Dist -Philadelphia, Operations Division, Office of the Chief, DUTY LOCATION: Philadelphia, PA

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 1

Duties: Serves as the Project Engineer. Reviews and evaluates the status of assigned projects for attainment of objectives in accordance with established Project Management Plans (PMP). Initiates, manages, administers and approves plans that translate program and project objectives into completed, functional project phases. Reviews and approves operating plans and approaches, establishes overall project priorities, procedures and short-term and long-range goals. Resolves highly complex and difficult technical and administrative project problems, obtaining Project Review Board or supervisory guidance or approval, as required. Implements overall program and project guidance and policy. Adapts and interprets policy to assure a uniform and balanced project within the framework of District policies, programs and objectives.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Vacancy Announcement Number: **NCFL08532298**

Opening Date: January 24, 2008 **Closing Date:** February 23, 2008

Position: YF-3:Supervisory Architect (0808), Supervisory Civil Engineer (0810), Supervisory Environmental Engineer (0819), Supervisory Chemical Engineer (0893), Supervisory Chemist (1320)

Salary: \$93,107 - \$157,412 Annual

Place of Work: HQ US Army Corps of Engineers; Directorate of Military Programs, Environmental Support Team, Washington DC

Position Status: This is a Permanent position. -- Full Time

Number of Vacancy: 01

NSPS Position: This position is covered by the National Security Personnel System. For more information on NSPS, please visit the website at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>.

Duties: Serves as Chief of the Branch with responsibility for planning, formulating, developing, implementing, reviewing, and evaluating environmental and/or remedial action (construction) activities required to support missions undertaken by the USACE. Manages all aspects of the various programs developing USACE long and short-range strategic plans necessary to accomplish the particular mission. Ensures that the engineering, planning, design and cost estimating for the projects are appropriately reviewed by engineering and environmental elements at the mandatory centers of expertise. Furnishes environmental and engineering guidance to USACE MSC and district offices on major problems related to policies, projects or overall planning for program execution. Supervises a staff of professional engineers and/or environmental specialist and administrative/clerical support personnel performing the work of the Branch. Develops performance standards & rates performance of subordinates.

TRAINING COURSES

Upcoming PROSPECT training courses of interest to the members of the Planning CoP include:

PLANNING FOR ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION (Control Number: 348)

May 5-8, 2008

Phoenix, AZ

Ecosystem restoration is a priority mission in the Corps' Civil Works program. Together with traditional environmental mitigation, restoration spans the range of resources from fish and wildlife to watersheds and ecosystems. The formulation and evaluation that leads to restoration projects require a collaborative approach that also involves local sponsors and other stakeholders. This course explores key issues related to the current practice of ecosystem restoration planning: current and evolving policy, definition and measurement of ecosystem outputs, resource significance, plan formulation, and cost effectiveness/incremental cost analyses. Case studies and a half-day field trip to a local Corps restoration project will be utilized to illustrate current practices.

Within the context of the six-step planning process, the following topics will be discussed: (a) Authorities for Corps involvement in ecosystem restoration projects, (b) Environmental outputs and tools available for measuring them, (c) The meaning of resource significance and the importance of the evaluation criteria of efficiency, effectiveness, acceptability and completeness in ecosystem restoration, (d) Fundamentals of ecological principles and processes, (e) Management measures, (f) How risk and uncertainty factor into ecosystem restoration evaluation, (g) The purpose of Cost Effectiveness and Incremental Cost Analysis, (h) How to formulate jointly for ecosystem restoration (NER) and National Economic Development (NED) benefits. (NOTE: Although this course addresses evaluation tools and procedures for ecosystem restoration planning, this is not a course in the theory/mechanics of ecological or habitat models such as HEP or HGM).

To attend this course or to receive additional information about other PROSPECT training courses, please contact the USACE Learning Center at <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil>.

Changes to PROSPECT Course Number 345: “NONSTRUCTURAL MEASURES FOR FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT”, March 31-April 4, 2008, Omaha, NE

The following information pertaining to changes to **PROSPECT course 345 “Nonstructural Measures for Flood Risk Management”** is provided by Mr. Larry Buss, Chairperson of the Corps Nonstructural/Floodproofing Committee. (email at larry.s.buss@usace.army.mil)

Background

Flood risk is increasing across the United States even though this Nation has made major expenditures over the years to reduce flood risk. This has occurred because, as a Nation, we tend to build too low and we tend to build in the wrong places relative to flood risk. To mitigate this we have historically relied primarily on structural measures to “remove floods from people and from buildings”.

Over the past decades, this Nation has evolved from focusing on flood control to focusing on flood damage reduction to now focusing on flood risk management. This evolutionary journey of achieving comprehensive flood risk management continues to reveal the importance of measures that, in a simplistic form, “remove people and buildings from floods”. These measures are called nonstructural measures.

The January 2008 issue of *Planning Ahead* most recently presented information on an upcoming training course entitled “Flood Warning Preparedness Program”. This course was envisioned to present some brief information of a generalized nature on nonstructural flood risk management measures but to really focus on the specific nonstructural measure of flood warning and preparedness.

However, with the correct focus today on comprehensive flood risk management and the subsequent need to use nonstructural measures to truly reduce flood risk, this course has been changed to provide in depth focus on nonstructural measures. The course is now entitled **“Nonstructural Measures for Flood Risk Management”**. This course is scheduled for March 31-April 4, 2008 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Course Description

This course will provide participants with the overall ability to realize opportunities with nonstructural measures, to formulate nonstructural measures, and to implement nonstructural measures. This course will touch on the Corps flood risk management mission and the relationship of this mission to the *Actions for Change*, the *Civil Works Strategic Plan*, the *Environmental Operating Principles*, watershed/systems planning, etc. in order for the participant to fully understand the significant role of nonstructural measures.

This course will make the participant very familiar with the basic nonstructural measures such as elevation; dry flood proofing; wet flood proofing; small berms, levees, and walls; relocation; acquisition; and flood warning/preparedness. Students will understand where each of the basic nonstructural measures work best and how nonstructural measures compare with structural measures across a variety of parameters. The importance and relevance of the National Flood Insurance Program to flood risk management will be explained. Laws, policies, statutes, executive orders, etc will be covered that relate directly to nonstructural measure formulation and implementation. The host of opportunities that exist with implementing nonstructural measures will be explored in terms of accomplishing multiple objectives, partnering and collaboration, sustainability, and achieving long term flood risk reduction/management. The participant will be shown how to conduct nonstructural benefit analysis and how to formulate nonstructural alternatives. A field trip will be included to actually see nonstructural measures that have been implemented. The overall course will include examples of formulated projects in order to provide a better understanding of course concepts. To solidify the importance of nonstructural measures to reduce flood risk, the course will conclude with a visionary look to the Year 2050 in terms of what experts in the field of flood risk management feel must be accomplished for this Nation to truly minimize flood risk. The overall goal of this course is to enable the participants to return home with a high comfort level in their ability to lead and/or assist in formulating and implementing nonstructural measures.

Openings currently exist for this course. The course control number remains 345. If you are interested in learning more about Course number 345 **“Nonstructural Measures for Flood Risk Management”**, please contact the USACE Learning Center at the <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil/Default.aspx> for more information on this training opportunity.

Corrections:

In the January 2008 issue of *Planning Ahead*, in the article entitled “Two Scholars Join Staff at Institute for Water Resources” the photo of Mr. Robert Pietrowsky, Director of the Institute of Water Resources and Dr. Yacov Haimes had an incorrect caption. The correct caption accompanying the photo is as follows: “Professor Yacov Haimes is appointed Maass-White Visiting Scholar for 2007-2008. Left: Robert Pietrowsky, Director, IWR, Right: Yacov Haimes, PhD, PE.”

In the January 2008 issue of *Planning Ahead*, in the article entitled, “2008 Planning Associates Receive Additional Training in Plan Formulation” Mr. Scott Estergard of the Phoenix area office of the Los Angeles District, is incorrectly identified as a study/project manager. Mr. Estergard’s correct title is “Planner.”

CONFERENCES

National Flood Risk Management Levee Safety Summit

February 26-27, 2008

St. Louis, MO

Additional information: <http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/LeveeSafety.asp>

Gilbert F. White Lecture in the Geographical Sciences “Managing American Water Resources: Recognizing the Realities of Geography” given by Dr. Gerald E. Galloway, University of Maryland

February 28, 2008

Washington, DC

Additional information: <http://dels.nas.edu/besr/gsc.shtml>

Integrated Watershed Management: Reducing Nonpoint Source Pollution

May 5-7, 2008

San Diego, CA

Additional information: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/nps/conference2008.html>

4th International Symposium on Flood Defense

May 6-8, 2008

Toronto, Canada

Additional information: <http://www.flood2008.org/flood/>

Association of Flood Plain Managers 2008 Annual Conference

May 18-23, 2008

Reno-Sparks, NV

Additional information: <http://www.floods.org/Conferences,%20Calendar/Reno-Sparks.asp>

2008 USACE Planning Community of Practice Conference

May 20-22, 2008

San Antonio, TX

National Environmental Conflict Resolution Conference

May 20-22, 2008

Tucson, AZ

Additional information: <http://www.ecr.gov/ecr.asp?link=607>

20th Salt Water Intrusion Meeting

June 23-27, 2008

Naples, FL

Additional information: <http://conference.ifas.ufl.edu/SWIM/>

Riparian Ecosystems and Buffers: Working at the Water’s Edge

June 30 – July 2, 2008

Virginia Beach, VA

Additional information: http://www.awra.org/meetings/Virginia_Beach2008/

International Conference on Water Scarcity, Global Changes, and Groundwater Management Responses

December 1-6, 2008

Irvine, CA

Additional information:

<http://www.uwrc.uci.edu/documents/SCARCE-WATER-BROCHURE-Final.pdf>

PUBLICATIONS

The following is a list of recently published reports, studies, or articles prepared by the Corps of Engineers, other Federal agencies, or other research organizations:

“Freight Transportation — National Policy and Strategies Can Help Improve Freight Mobility”, Government Accountability Office, Report Number GAO-08-287, January 2008, available at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08287.pdf>

“Transportation For Tomorrow: Report of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission”, January 2008, available at http://www.transportationfortomorrow.org/final_report/

HOW TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO *PLANNING AHEAD*

Planning Ahead is designed to foster communication amongst the members of the Planning community of practice within the Corps, with those other members of the Corps family with which planners interact on a daily basis, and with members of the general public outside of the Corps. It is our goal that future editions of the newsletter will include information and perspectives of those members of the planning community on the front lines of the Corps' planning efforts, the District and Division offices. We hope that this newsletter becomes a forum to share your experiences to help the entire planning community learn from one another. We welcome your thoughts, comments, questions, suggestions, success stories, and lessons learned, so that we can share them with the broader community. Submissions should be moderate in length (4-5 paragraphs), except in cases where the article is compelling and circumstances warrant a lengthier treatment of the subject. The article should be prepared as a MS Word document. Pictures accompanying submitted articles are welcome. Pictures must be in JPEG format. Please send articles to Mr. Kenneth E. Lichtman, at Kenneth.e.lichtman@usace.army.mil.

The deadline for material to be published in the next issue of *Planning Ahead* is
Wednesday, February 20, 2008

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